



NATIONAL  
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SERVICE

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# WEATHER & CROPS



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture



**Week Ending: May 29, 2011**

**Number: 12**

**Released: May 31, 2011**

## WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING MAY 29, 2011

Varying weather patterns throughout the Commonwealth caused high humidity levels throughout the state. The increased humidity levels favored corn that had already been seeded. Days suitable for field work were 5.3. Many farmers cut and baled hay in the areas that high temperatures and little to no rain prevailed. Small grains and tobacco are looking good. Cotton planting is complete and most peanuts are in. Corn planting is almost complete and germination is good. Vegetable farmers are closing out a productive strawberry season while planting summer vegetables such as cantaloupes, tomatoes, sweet potatoes, peppers, and sweet corn continues. Summer squash, yellow crook-neck and zucchini are looking good. Farm activity consists of side dressing corn, planting full season soybeans, preparation for small grain harvest, and applying herbicide to corn and soybean fields. Barley growers are preparing for harvest with a few producers already starting this week.

### TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
May 1, 2011	2	8	73	17
May 8, 2011	0	4	80	16
May 15, 2011	2	9	73	16
May 22, 2011	0	9	69	22
May 29, 2011	2	20	69	9

### SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
May 1, 2011	2	11	77	10
May 8, 2011	0	11	81	8
May 15, 2011	2	13	74	11
May 22, 2011	0	14	74	12
May 29, 2011	2	24	70	4

### IN THIS REPORT:

Crop Condition Percent	pg 2
Crop Progress Percent With Comparisons	pg 2
Weather Summary Table	pg 3
Reporter Comments by County	pg 3,4

**Virginia Cooperative Extension Service**

**Virginia Cooperative Extension**  
A partnership of Virginia Tech and Virginia State University [www.ext.vt.edu](http://www.ext.vt.edu)

**Virginia Tech**



**Virginia State University**



VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	1	2	21	62	14
Livestock	0	4	18	59	19
Hay, Other	1	8	25	55	11
Hay, Alfalfa	0	1	21	68	10
Corn	0	0	16	71	13
Soybeans	0	2	10	81	7
Winter Wheat	0	0	19	68	13
Barley	0	1	15	70	14
Oats	0	0	23	74	3
Tobacco, Greenhouses	0	0	45	43	12
Tobacco, Plantbeds	0	0	35	65	0
Summer Potatoes	0	0	50	50	0
Apples, All	0	0	27	73	0
Peaches	0	2	34	63	1
Grapes	0	0	30	69	1

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Planted	92	86	96	94
Corn Emerged	80	68	80	82
Flue Cured Tobacco Transplanted	90	75	92	95
Burley Tobacco Transplanted	44	15	54	57
Dark Fire-Cured Tobacco Transplanted	67	40	82	77
Soybeans Planted	43	34	40	37
Soybeans Emerged	27	16	26	21
Barley Harvested	12	0	3	6
Peanuts Planted	95	66	81	87
Cotton Planted	100	98	96	97

### VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING MAY 29, 2011

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50) 1/		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar. 1 to May 28	Mar. 1 to May 28 normal	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	83	60	88	56	72	7	927	839	1.12	11.39	.44	14.80	-2.81
Norfolk	88	68	92	61	78	10	1085	902	.78	6.12	-4.61	12.00	-6.18
Richmond	87	65	93	60	76	9	1079	947	.04	11.26	.54	15.82	-1.37
Roanoke	83	62	88	58	73	7	949	NA	.63	13.35	2.14	16.37	-1.23
Wash/Dulles	84	63	90	56	73	9	853	NA	.39	13.60	3.14	17.68	1.46

\* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.

## REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

### NORTHERN

#### CLARKE (Jacob Grove)

Warmer than average days, along with frequent scattered showers contributing to high humidity have favored the corn that has been seeded. Hay and small grain quality continues to drop under these conditions.

#### FREDERICK (Jeanette R. Smith)

Had a few wet days last week. Over the weekend we had high temperatures and many producers cut and baled hay.

### WESTERN

#### ROCKBRIDGE (Tom Stanley)

Summer heat and humidity with thunderstorms Monday and Friday maintained soil moisture while allowing field work to progress. Most of Rockbridge received an inch or more of rain over the course of the week but many farmers chose to mow first cutting hay, especially Friday and Saturday with a forecast favorable for hay making.

### CENTRAL

#### AMELIA (Joan D Poore)

Weekend scattered showers May 27 and 28 in Amelia will be beneficial due to the high temperatures expected in the upcoming week.

#### CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Small grain crops are generally looking very good. Scattered rain and winds have caused some lodging. Corn crop is mostly planted and early planted corn is looking very good. Farmers are side-dressing the crop as it reaches about 18-20 inches. A lot of hay has been cut and made in the last week to ten days. Some has been rained on, but most looks good. Vegetable farmers are finishing up a very good strawberry season, and continuing to plant summer vegetables. Early summer squash, yellow crook-neck and zucchini are beginning to come in and blueberries should start being harvested this coming week.

#### CHESTERFIELD (Joan D. Poore)

Scattered Showers over the weekend was beneficial due to the high temperature expected this upcoming week. Crops are looking good now.

#### HANOVER (Jim Tate)

Afternoon thunderstorms continue to vex hay producers. Some storms are horrendous. Bad wind, hail, lightening and torrential downpours wept through the area. Conditions have now turned hot with the weekend being very hot and humid. Afternoon thunderstorms and severe weather predicted for the next few days.

### EASTERN

#### ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Hot and dry conditions have started to deplete soil moisture. Farmers continued side dressing corn, planting full season soybeans, and applying herbicides to corn and soybean fields. Some hay was also made. Some soybean acres were replanted due to deer feeding and packing rains from the previous week.

#### MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Wheat and barley is drying down fast. Barley should be ready for harvest by early next week. Full season soybean planting continues. Corn looks good especially since the recent rain and increasing temperatures. Most crops have gotten better since warm up. Field work includes soybean planting, post herbicide application on corn, nitrogen side dress on corn, land prep for soybean planting, preparation for small grain harvest, vegetable planting; cantaloupes, tomatoes, sweet potatoes, peppers, and sweet corn. Still making hay in some locations. Corn looks yellow in some places, likely showing some micro nutrient deficiencies and also somewhat due to earlier cool weather. Should grow out of all that with N/S applications and hot weather. Producers excited about recent price rallies.

### SOUTHWESTERN

#### Smyth (Andy Overbay)

Continued suppressed windows of harvest opportunities have taken a heavy toll on hay quality. Much of the first cutting is in full bloom, yet it is still standing in the field. Clearing skies for Memorial Day weekend will fill the fields with mowers and hay bines.

### SOUTHEASTERN

#### BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)

Storms this week kept producers out of the field for a little while scouting for damage. A dairy producer went without power for over 24 hours; he used his generator to milk. Some minor repairs were made along with removing limbs from yards and fields. Soybeans and corn along with tobacco is looking pretty good. Hay has been rained on this past week. Small grains are being combined this week.

#### SOUTHAMPTON (John Rudy)

The strong winds from the last storms that went through the county have knocked down some wheat. Lack of rain is beginning to affect the corn. Cotton and corn planting is complete and most peanuts and early soybeans are in. All crops are in need of rain and we hope this will come in the next few days. Pastures are improving.

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## REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

### SOUTHEASTERN (*continued*)

#### **SURRY (Glenn Slade)**

Recent showers are keeping crops growing but sub-soil is beginning to dry out. Barley is being harvested with good yields reported.

#### **SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells)**

Light scattered showers fell over our area giving us little relief to the dry conditions. Soybean planting continues along with herbicides applications on cotton and side dressing. Nitrogen application to corn. Growers are getting ready to harvest a good looking wheat crop.



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